

Th loprd

Literature



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"Th Loprd" Toms di Lmpdus strtd writing his most rnownd novl towrds th nd of 1954. Th primry id ws to tll bout dy in his grt grndfthr's lif t th tim of Gribldi's Inding in Sicily. Giuspp di Lmpdus turnd 58 whn h strtd to writ Th Loprd, though h hd hd it in his mind for 25 yrs. Th uthor did t th g of 60, soon ftr finishing Th Loprd, so h did not vn hv chnc to s it is publishd nd did not tst th flvor of fm.

Th Loprd ws prt of post-wr trnd mong Itlin intllectuls to scrutiniz, if not chllng, th vry principl of Itlin politicl unification, stting th stg for Itly's nw fdralism, vry conct rality tody. It ws this prspctiv, mor thn th story itslf, which dfind Th Loprd s classic work of Itlin (nd intrntionl) litrtur, for othr books hd bn writtn bout th Sicilin grciounss. Still, to portry th story of th dclining Slins in th 1860s s mr fbl for th dclin of th Itlin monrchy nd socio-politicl stblshmnt in th 1940s is to ovrlook th novll's prvlnt ppl. It dls with th Church, swping social chng nd, of cours, lov. Th Loprd is th story bout Don Fbrizio, Princ of Slin, guy who turnd forty nd hv svrl childrn. H is sort of compssiont tyrnt in his houshold, mn of vry old fmily, ccustomd to knowing his plc nd to hving people over that he actually knows. Th Princ is Iso mn of grt corporl pptits, lckdisicl with his mony (though not wstful or lvish), politiclly wll-informd but compltly politicl in ction, nd Iso n mtur stronmr of som not. Whn th story opns, th Risorgimnto is ongoing, but it is clr tht it will b ultimty succssful, nd tht th Kingdom of th Two Sicilis will b bsorbd into th nwly unitd, somwht mor dmocrtic, Itly. Don Fbrizio nominlly supports th old rgim, but h rlisticly stys out of th conflict. His fvorit nphw, Tncrdi, th impovrishd but chrismtic son of his sistr, is n frvnt supportr of Gribldi, who t tht tim ws ldr of th rvolution. Svrl long chptrs, tht strch ovr svrl months, chs th progrss of th Risorgimnto t distnc, nd mor closly go bhind vnts which is rflctd dirctly on Don Fbrizio's lif,

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yt which rvl th coming socitl chngs. Thos contin th plbiscit to vrfy populr support for th unification of Itly, his nphw Tncrdi's lov ffr nd ultimt mrrig to th dughtr of wlthy but dciddly lowr clss nighbor, his dughtr's rction to th ttentions of frind of Tncrdi's, nd Fthr Pirron's visit to his hom villg. Finlly, th ction gos bck som dcds to th Princ's dth, in vry moving nd gorgous chptr, thn still furthr forwrd to th hom of his unmrrid ging dughtrs. Th vnts of th story tllingly dmonstrt both th ltring fc of socity nd lso th chrctr of Sicilin socity in gnrl. t nothr lvl, th Princ is ging nd his knowldg of his own mortlity hlp his to imgin his own dth. Loving dscriptions of th Princ's homs, of psnt lif, of his mls, of bls, of hunting, of politics both t th two lvls, on on hnd it is Princ lvl nd on th othr hnd it is psnts lvl, of th pproch of churchmn towrds thir flock (spcilly Fthr Pirron's tolrtion but not support of his frind's snsul trickris) r intrvnd throughout th novl. Furthrmor, th Princ himslf is truly convincing, chrismtic chrctr, full of fults tht ttrct rdr so much. Morovr, th nrrtor's voic is chsing rdr in positiv mning xprssing th irony nd cynicism, mntioning th xpcttions of th chrctrs nd both thir chivmnt nd th filings of " rl lif" to mt thir xpcttions, but th voic is nvr stringnt or hostil.

Giuspp Di Lmpdus wrot only on novl Th Loprd in his lif tim nd tht too ws publishd posthumously. Thus on of th most importnt 20th cntury novl in th Itlin lngug ws nvr sn in print by th uthor himslf. But it still kps th rdrs ntrtind in trms of vivid storylin nd strtling chrctrs.

Bibliogrphy:

1. Toms di Giuspp Lmpdus. Th Loprd. Trnsldt by rchibld Colquhoun . Nw York: Pnthon, 1960.